

CLAIMS

1. A method for automatically creating a shortcut icon file used to start up an application program, comprising the steps of:

- 5 storing a condition for creating the shortcut icon file;  
updating an application program startup record in response to startup of the application program;  
and  
10 automatically creating the shortcut icon file for the application program when the startup record satisfies the creation condition.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the creation condition includes the number of application  
15 program startups as a threshold value, and  
the startup record includes the number of application program startups.

3. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
20 storing a condition for deleting the shortcut icon file; and  
automatically deleting the shortcut icon file for the application program when the startup record satisfies the deletion condition.

- 25 4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the deletion condition includes as a threshold value a period during which the application program has not been executed, and  
the startup record includes a date at  
30 which the application program was executed.

5. A method for automatically deleting a shortcut icon file used to start up an application program, comprising the steps of:  
storing a condition for deleting the  
35 shortcut icon file;  
updating an application program startup record in response to startup of the application program;

and

automatically deleting the shortcut icon file for the application program when the startup record satisfies the deletion condition.

5           6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the  
deletion condition includes as a threshold value a period  
during which the application program has not been  
executed, and

the startup record includes a date at  
10 which the application program was executed.

7. A method according to claim 5, further including the step of restoring the shortcut icon file for the application program when the startup record of the application program does not satisfy the deletion condition and when the shortcut icon file corresponding to the application program is not found.

8. An apparatus for automatically creating a shortcut icon file used to start up an application program, comprising:

20 means for storing a condition for creating the shortcut icon file;

means for updating an application program  
startup record in response to startup of the application  
program; and

25                    means for automatically creating the  
shortcut icon file for the application program when the  
startup record satisfies the creation condition.

9. An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the  
creation condition includes the number of application  
30 program startups as a threshold value, and

the startup record includes the number of application program startups.

10. An apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

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35             means for storing a condition for deleting
the shortcut icon file; and

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means for automatically deleting the

shortcut icon file for the application program when the startup record satisfies the deletion condition.

11. An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the deletion condition includes as a threshold value a period during which the application program has not been executed, and

the startup record includes a date at which the application program was executed.

12. An apparatus for automatically deleting a shortcut icon file used to start up an application program, comprising:

means for storing a condition for deleting the shortcut icon file;

means for updating an application program startup record in response to startup of the application program; and

means for automatically deleting the shortcut icon file for the application program when the startup record satisfies the deletion condition.

13. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the deletion condition includes as a threshold value a period during which the application program has not been executed, and

the startup record includes a date at which the application program was executed.

14. An apparatus according to claim 12, further including means for restoring the shortcut icon file for the application program when the startup record of the application program does not satisfy the deletion condition and when the shortcut icon file corresponding to the application program is not found.

15. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for creating a shortcut icon file used to start up an application program, said method steps comprising:

storing a condition for creating the

shortcut icon file;

updating an application program startup  
record in response to startup of the application program;  
and

5 automatically creating the shortcut icon  
file for the application program when the startup record  
satisfies the creation condition.

16. A program storage device according to claim 15,  
wherein the creation condition includes the number of  
10 application program startups as a threshold value, and  
the startup record includes the number of  
application program startups.

17. A program storage device according to claim 15,  
further comprising the steps of:

15 storing a condition for deleting the  
shortcut icon file; and

automatically deleting the shortcut icon  
file for the application program when the startup record  
satisfies the deletion condition.

20 18. A program storage device according to claim 17,  
wherein the deletion condition includes as a threshold  
value a period during which the application program has  
not been executed, and

the startup record includes a date at  
25 which the application program was executed.

19. A program storage device readable by a machine,  
tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable  
by the machine to perform method steps for deleting a  
shortcut icon file used to start up an application  
30 program, said method steps comprising:

storing a condition for deleting the  
shortcut icon file;

updating an application program startup  
record in response to startup of the application program;  
35 and

automatically deleting the shortcut icon  
file for the application program when the startup record

satisfies the deletion condition.

20. A program storage device according to claim 19, wherein the deletion condition includes as a threshold value a period during which the application program has not been executed, and

the startup record includes a date at which the application program was executed.

21. A program storage device according to claim 19, further comprising the step of restoring the shortcut icon file for the application program when the startup record of the application program does not satisfy the deletion condition and when the shortcut icon file corresponding to the application program is not found.

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